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classique de Columban et la culture philosophique de Scot Érigène" (p. 207).

The method of the author seems sound. The attention of scholars has frequently been attracted to the brilliant performance of certain men of the ninth century, who probably were Irish (Erigena, Sedulius Scotus, and others) but lived chiefly on the continent. It is manifestly hazardous to draw, from the character of their work, inferences as to the state of learning in Ireland two or three centuries before. For the sixth and seventh centuries, M. Roger finds that certain groups of Irish monks devoted themselves to the study of Scripture and the works of the Latin Fathers. The efficient prosecution of their sacred studies was the motive impelling them to acquire a knowledge of Latin letters. From this they were led on to a study of rhetoric and the classic writers. The author in part ascribes the readiness with which Irish students passed from sacred to profane studies to the circumstance that Irishmen had inherited no aversion to the profane character of these writings, since the heathen Irish past, from which the race had been converted, had no connection with classic paganism (pp. 236-237).

We cannot follow M. Roger further, for instance through his consideration and incidental minimizing of the work of the Irish for the diffusion of letters on the continent in the sixth and seventh centuries (p. 403 *et seqq.*); but will close with the remark that whatever credit he takes from the Irish, he carries to the account—and quite properly as we think—of the great Anglo-Saxons who learned and labored at Jarrow and York. They indeed had drawn from Irish teachers, but had profited quite as much from the learning brought to England by the African Hadrian and Theodore of Tarsus, whom Pope Vitalian sent in 669 to take charge of the See of Canterbury.

HENRY OSBORN TAYLOR.

#### BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

*Codex Diplomaticus Moenofrancofurtanus. Urkundenbuch der Reichsstadt Frankfurt.* Herausgegeben von JOHANN FRIEDRICH BOEHMER. Neubearbeitung auf Veranlassung und aus den Mitteln der Administration des Dr. Johann Friedrich Boehmer'schen Nachlasses. Erster Band, 794-1314; zweiter Band, 1314-1340. Bearbeitet von FRIEDRICH LAU. (Frankfurt am Main: Joseph Baer and Company. 1901, 1905. Pp. xii, 562; vii, 645.)

THE edition of documents relating to Frankfort which Boehmer announced in 1826 and finished ten years later seemed so worthy in purpose and so well done that it was widely imitated. It became the forerunner and in great part the model of many collections of sources upon German towns. It had, however, along with the opportunity of pioneer

work, also the disadvantage. Students of a new generation found its references and explanations insufficient, its lack of an index a constant source of needless labor. They found also—as various archives came to be better ordered—that it gave by no means all the available sources upon medieval Frankfort; not only for the fourteenth century, which it pretended to cover by a selection, but as well for the period down to 1300, which it professed to cover fully. The entire work, through little or no fault of Boehmer's, called for redoing.

Accordingly, as long ago as 1880 the administrators of Boehmer's estate provided for a new edition of the Frankfort *Codex*. The work upon it, however, advanced but too slowly until it was entrusted, in 1897, to Friedrich Lau, who was able to give it for more than a year and a half his entire time. By help of the many copies and collations made by his predecessors, Grotefend and von Nathusius, and by much research on his own part, Dr. Lau has brought together, along with most of the pieces in the original edition, a great amount of new matter. Boehmer's single quarto contained, all told down to the year 1400, 1,026 documents. The two quartos of the new edition have 1,699 numbers, together with some additional matter, and go only to 1340. Also, the definite and concise references and explanations accompanying the successive pieces, and the carefully-wrought index at the end of each volume, show a clear appreciation of what present-day students require of such collections. Errors in detail were not wholly to be avoided; scholars of special competence in the local history have pointed out a considerable number of them in the first volume (von Nathusius, in *Westdeutsche Zeitschrift für Geschichte und Kunst*, 21, pp. 211-216; Reimer, in *Göttingische Gelehrte Anzeigen*, 164, pp. 826-830). Especially, the index, careful as it is, still is not so helpful as it might be with regard to forms of names and locations of places. These shortcomings, however, are of relatively little moment; in the main, the editor has done his part with entire success.

With this enlarged and properly equipped body of sources, it will be possible to extend in many directions present knowledge of the people of medieval Frankfort. Their local public institutions can now be better known. Relations they had with the emperor, and with others outside the city, can be seen in more detail. Probably, however, no sides of their history will profit more strikingly than those relating to economic and social conditions, especially in the first half of the fourteenth century. On such matters some of the new pieces will prove of quite unusual interest, notably the wills in nos. 377, 412, 425, 475, 517, 575, and 621 of vol. II. The new *Codex* thus is in a way to give aid not only on the sorts of questions that Boehmer had most in view, but also on others which have come within the vision of historical students chiefly since Boehmer's time.

Dr. Lau takes leave of the work with the second volume. His

successor, whoever he may be, will have but to continue—with some improvements in detail—upon the model already provided.

EARLE W. DOW.

*An Epitomized History of the Militia (the "Constitutional Force") together with the Origin, Periods of Embodied Service and Special Services (including South Africa, 1899-1902) of Militia Units Existing October 31, 1905.* Compiled by COLONEL GEORGE JACKSON HAY, C.B., C.M.G. (London: The United Service Gazette Office. [1906.] Pp. 444.)

COLONEL HAY exercised good judgment in describing his work as a compilation. That it is a compilation is obvious on almost every page; and as regards smoothness and easy reading it has most of the drawbacks of a compilation—drawbacks that at times are a little disconcerting if not irritating to the reader. But, this said, it must at once be added that the compilation is marked by good arrangement of material and admirable grouping; and that by the enormous labor that Colonel Hay has bestowed on his work he has produced a volume of first importance to students of the military and constitutional history of the United Kingdom.

The book bears the marks of having been written chiefly for students of military history and organization; and these students cannot but admire the enthusiasm which Colonel Hay has put into his work, and the infinite care that he has taken with details. Some of the constitutional aspects of the militia are lacking, due chiefly to the fact that Colonel Hay has taken his Parliamentary history mostly at second hand; that he has not himself gone to the *Journals* of the two Houses of Parliament and to the Parliamentary histories and the Hansards. Had he gone to these sources, in particular had he gone to the Hansards for 1831-1832, he would have been able to round out his excellent summary of the statutes enacted for the raising, organization, and government of the "Constitutional Force" from 1122 to 1902, by an account of the circumstances under which balloting for the militia was allowed to fall into desuetude.

For many years before 1831 it had been, as Colonel Hay incidentally shows, more politic to raise the militia by beat of drum and bounties than to raise it by ballot under the more modernized system which had been established by the famous Militia Act of 1756 and the Explanatory Act of 1758. But although there was little need for the services of the militia between the peace after Waterloo and the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny, the ballot survived as late as 1831. At this time the movement for Parliamentary reform was about to achieve its first great success. The measure which ultimately became the Act of 1832 was under discussion in Parliament. It did not go far enough for some of the Radical reformers in London. The ratepaying qualifica-